

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method wherein a glass sheet, which has been heated to have a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s, is pressed against a mold having a certain bending surface to be bent in a shape along the bending surface;

comprising controlling a bending temperature T and a bending time period t for the glass sheet so as to satisfy the following formulas 1 and 2, and

bending the glass sheet against the bending surface:

$$0.05 < \phi < 2.00 \quad \text{Formula 1}$$

$$\phi = \int_0^t \frac{P(\tau)}{\eta(T)} d\tau \quad \text{Formula 2}$$

where $P(\tau)$ is a surface pressure difference (unit: Pa) between a pressure applied on a primary surface of the glass sheet and a pressure applied on a rear surface of the glass sheet at a time τ , t is a bending time period (unit: s), $\eta(T)$ is the viscosity (unit: Pa·s) of the glass sheet at a temperature T, and T is a bending temperature (unit: °C) at the time τ .

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the bent glass sheet includes a portion having a radius of curvature of not larger than 100 mm.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the bent glass sheet includes a corner where three surfaces connect together, and each of the surfaces is a flat surface or a curved surface having a radius of curvature of not smaller than 500 mm.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising sandwiching a peripheral portion of the glass sheet between the mold and a ring substantially conforming to a peripheral edge of the glass sheet, the bending surface of the mold being formed in a concave shape; and sucking air between the glass sheet and the bending surface during bending the glass sheet.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising trimming a portion of the glass sheet sandwiched between the ring and the mold after bending the glass sheet.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising putting the glass sheet on a ring, and pressing the glass sheet against the mold to press the glass sheet during bending the glass sheet, the mold being provided above the glass sheet.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the glass sheet is bent primarily only by gravity.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising applying a mold-releasing agent to the mold before bending the glass sheet.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising preparing the glass sheet by a float method.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the glass sheet is bent to have the shape ~~for production~~ of an automobile window.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising blowing air to swell the glass sheet in a first direction, followed by sucking air to bend the glass sheet in a second direction.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (New): An apparatus for bending a glass sheet which has been heated to have a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s, comprising:

a mold having a certain bending surface; and

control means for controlling a bending temperature T and a bending time period t for the heated glass sheet bent against the bending surface so as to satisfy the following formulas 1 and 2:

$$0.05 < \phi < 2.00 \quad \text{Formula 1}$$

$$\phi = \int_0^t \frac{P(\tau)}{\eta(T)} d\tau \quad \text{Formula 2}$$

where $P(\tau)$ is a surface pressure difference (unit: Pa) between a pressure applied on a primary surface of the glass sheet and a pressure applied on a rear surface of the glass sheet at a time τ , t is a bending time period (unit: s), $\eta(T)$ is the viscosity (unit: Pa·s) of the glass sheet at a temperature T, and T is a bending temperature (unit: °C) at the time τ .